

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03898 071758Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4805

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 3898

NODIS CHEROKEE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY, XF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY FROM PRESIDENT ASAD

1. AT 1730 LOCAL OCT. 7 PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY DABOUL SUMMONED DCM TO HIS OFFICE TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ASAD TO THE SECRETARY. IN SO DOING, HE STATED THAT PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED YESTERDAY (OCT. 6) BUT THAT HE, DABOUL, HAD BEEN LATE IN RETURNING FROM EL-FITR HOLIDAY AND THIS HAD BEEN CAUSE OF DELAY.
2. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASAD WISHES TO THANK DR. KISSINGER FOR HIS TWO MESSAGES DATE SEPT. 20, 1975 AND HIS ORAL MESSAGE CONVEYED BY AMBASSADOR MURPHY ON OCT. 2.
3. THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO REAFFIRM ONCE AGAIN OUR KEENNESS IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO ACHIEVE A JUST PEACE IN THIS AREA. HE HAS NO DOUBT THAT OUR ATTITUDE IN THIS CONNECTION IS ALREADY VERY CLEAR TO DR. KISSINGER, AS HE HAS HEARD IT MANY TIMES DURING THEIR VARIOUS MEETINGS.
4. DR. KISSINGER WILL RECALL THAT THE PRESIDENT MADE IT CLEAR DURING THEIR MOST RECENT MEETING THAT THE ARABS HAVE AN INTEREST IN PEACE AND THAT IF WE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS AN ARAB INTEREST IN TALKS ON A NEW DISENGAGEMENT THEN WE WOULD SAY YES TO SUCH TALKS; OTHERWISE, WE WOULD NOT AGREE TO THE TALKS.

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5. WHILE WE ARE KEEN TO ACHIEVE JUST PEACE IN THE AREA, IT IS

OUR VIEW THAT THE SINAI AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SYRIA TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE SYRIAN FRONT. THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC IS UNABLE TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF EGYPT IN ENTERING INTO INDIVIDUAL TALKS.

6. DR. KISSINGER WILL ALSO RECALL THAT THE PRESIDENT REPEATEDLY SAID DURING THEIR FREQUENT MEETINGS THAT DIVISION OF THE QUESTION AND SPLITTING OF THE ARAB FRONT WOULD NOT SERVE THE PROCESS OF PEACE. THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED THIS VIEW DURING THE MOST RECENT MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER WHEN HE STATED, IN THE COURSE OF CLARIFYING THE ROAD LEADING TO PEACE, THAT WE VIEWED THE QUESTION AS AN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND NOT AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NOR A SYRIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT BECAUSE ANY SOLUTION NOT BASED ON THIS VIEW WOULD ONLY CLOSE THE DOORS TOWARD PEACE AND THAT NEITHER EGYPT SEPARATELY NOR SYRIA SEPARATELY HAD THE RIGHT TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. INDEED, AS STATED BY THE PRESIDENT AT THAT MEETING, THE SINAI AGREEMENT HAS COMPLICATED THE SITUATION.

7. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO SAY THAT IF ISRAEL REALLY DESIRES NOT TO CLOSE ALL DOORS TOWARD PEACE AND ALSO DESIRES TO CARRY OUT SERIOUS TALKS WHICH ARE NOT MERELY DESIGNED TO WASTE TIME, THEN THE ONLY POSSIBLE TALKS ARE THOSE TALKS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN FRONTS SIMULTANEOUSLY. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS IS THE ONLY ROAD WHICH WILL REVIVE THE PROCESS OF PEACE.

8. THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS REALIZED THE SINCERITY OF SYRIA'S INTENTIONS AND ITS SINCERITY IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE. DR. KISSINGER HAS STATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WAS CONVINCED OF THIS. BUT WE IN SYRIA CANNOT FOLLOW A PATH WHICH WE DEFINITELY BELIEVE IS HARMFUL TO ARAB INTERESTS AS WELL AS TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

9. FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT SENDS HIS WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS TO DR. KISSINGER AND HIS BEST WISHES FOR HIS GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS. END OF TEXT.
MURPHY

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